

MENDOCINO CITY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT COMMUNITY CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

September 25, 2026

Construction, Construction and More Construction

Two projects have created an unusual amount of construction activity within and near the District: the Mendocino Unified School District (MUSD) water supply and storage project and the Mendocino City Community Services District (MCCSD) recycled water project. Because these projects are happening at the same time, the projects may look like a single effort. In fact they are separate and have different funding, responsible agencies, contractors, and goals . The table below may help explain how these projects differ and how the District benefits from each.

	MUSD Storage Project	MCCSD Recycled Water Project
Funding	State Grants to MUSD and MCCSD	State Grant to MCCSD
Construction	Wahland	Ghilotti
Engineering	GHD	GHD
Responsible Agency	MUSD	MCCSD
Benefits to the District	-- More water for local fire suppression -- Less ground water pumped by MUSD in the dry season for irrigation --Improved fire protection for MUSD students and facilities -- A local, clean, safe, emergency water source --Safer drinking water for children and staff at the Mendo K-8, MHS, Community School, and Community Center.	-- Plant and equipment upgrades at your wastewater treatment plant -- Additional hydrants that improve capacity to deliver water for fire suppression -- More water available, and source redundancy, for fire suppression -- Reuse of treated wastewater for irrigation at multiple locations -- Reduced wastewater discharge into the ocean --Reduced demand for groundwater used for irrigation.

The Mendocino Fire Protection District and the Mendocino Volunteer Fire department have supported both projects throughout, recognizing the value of additional fire water reserves and hydrants in the community.

In addition to the direct benefits listed in the table, we have been able to piggyback on the trenching work for the recycled project to replace parts of MCCSD's aging wastewater collection system at a lower cost to ratepayers than would otherwise be possible.

We have heard some concerns that the MUSD water storage project could reduce groundwater availability at nearby wells. Based on our communication with project management and MUSD, it is our understanding that hydrological testing examined this issue and that the project has met MCCSD and County regulations for new wells. We also understand that MUSD does not expect to extract more ground water than it has historically used as a result of the water storage project. Once the recycled water project comes online, MUSD expects to reduce its extraction of ground water.

Residents have also had questions about whether the MUSD water supply project would be a source of water for properties whose wells run dry during a declared Stage 3 water emergency. Because MUSD has a potable water system, it was able to make potable water available in the most recent Stage 3 Drought of 2020-2021 when other sources became unavailable. MUSD has a history of sharing water and has expressed a continued willingness to share with those whose wells run dry in such a circumstance. We note that MUSD owns, operates, and maintains a public potable water system, not MCCSD. Questions related to the water supply project and water sharing should be directed to MUSD.

We recognize that both these projects have caused some disruption, but the inconvenience, while costly for affected businesses and annoying to everyone, is temporary. The benefits to the District, on the other hand, are long-lasting.

Progress Report on the Recycled Water Project

This project is moving ahead:

- MCCSD has been notified that the boring work under Hwy 1, and related lane closures of Little Lake Rd. on both East and West sides of the Hwy 1 intersection, began as scheduled on 9/22. The work is expected to be completed by 10/5, and possibly sooner.
- The temporary dirt piles on the Mendocino Headlands off Heeser Drive are within the MCCSD easements and should mostly be put back in the ground within two months. Some dirt will remain as a continuation of the protective berm surrounding the WWTP.
- Friendship park is currently receiving a new recycled water irrigation system. Even though recycled water won't be flowing until later in 2027, just knowing that kids and other community events will get to once again enjoy a green field year-round is exciting.
- Ghilotti continues to make great progress, but we still recognize the inconvenience and appreciate your patience as this important project continues. MCCSD recognizes the impacts construction can have on our community and will continue to provide updates as work progresses and we become aware of any changes.

Sewer Inspection and Cleaning

In other news, MCCSD operators have completed much of the annual sewer main cleaning and inspection activities. Camera crews will be working the week of 9/28. Please be cautious of our crews in the street.

Thank you for your patience and continued support.



Ryan Rhoades

Superintendent

Mendocino City Community Services District